

## Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /009 W  
----- 121060

R 071643Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5496

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3141

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT SOURCE WAIVER, VEHICLE FOR  
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: STATE 179483

1. POST PERCEIVES CONTINUING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
S/NM AND EMBASSY OVER WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND FOR ADDITIONAL  
NNA VEHICLE WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNDER PHYSICAL CONTROL  
OF ADO.

2. THERE WOULD BE NO UNILATERAL DEA USE OF THE VEHICLE.  
IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE USED "TO SUPPLEMENT NORMAL  
OVERHEAD OR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF OTHER USG AGEN-  
CIES INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL NOR WOULD IT  
CONTRIBUTE TO "FINANCING TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS  
OF DEA OFFICIALS." (FYI: ADO WITH THREE DEA-FUNDED  
AUTOMOBILES HAS SUFFICIENT MOBILITY FOR ITS OWN STRICTLY  
UNILATERAL PURPOSES. END FYI). PROHIBITIONS AND  
GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFTTEL  
ACCORDINGLY WOULD NOT SEEM TO APPLY.

3. WHAT WE HAVE HAD IN MIND IS RETAINING PHYSICAL  
CONTROL OVER ONE OF THE NNA-ASSIGNED TRUCKS, SO THAT  
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE JOINT NNA-DEA OPERATIONS INVOLVING  
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DEA ADVISORS AND NNA WORKING LEVEL COUNTERPARTS CAN BE

UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT SUBJECTING THEM TO THE KIND OF CLOSE SCRUTINY IMPOSED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES GOVERNING USE OF MINISTRY-CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT.

4. WHEN NNA WISHES TO MAKE USE OF ONE OF THE THREE VEHICLES ALREADY DELIVERED TO THE MININT FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, IT MUST PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE INTENDED USE TO THE HIERARCHY TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THE VEHICLE. THIS NOT ONLY LEADS TO DAMAGING DELAYS, BUT WE STRONGLY BELIEVE HAS AT LEAST THRICE SABOTAGED IMPORTANT NNA CASES. FOR TOURINE CASES INVOLVING MARIJUANA OR METHAMPHETAMINES (IN WHICH NNA HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL OF LATE) THE CLEARANCE SYSTEM--WHICH EXISTS INTERALIA TO KEEP A CHECK ON WHAT SENIOR MININT OFFICIALS REGARD AS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY NNA--HAS POSED NO SERIOUS PROBLEM TO DATE. STRICTLY SPEAKING THEN, THE MININT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROJECT AGREEMENT IS NOT AT ISSUE, SO THAT ADMONITION IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF REFTTEL ABOUT THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR VIGOROUS ACTION BY THE EMBASSY IS NOT PARTICULARLY GERMANE, EITHER.

5. WE PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY HERE ON OBTAINING A MEANINGFUL POLITICAL COMMITMENT FROM THE GOP TO HALT HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING. PRESIDENT STROESSNER IS FIRMLY ON RECORD WITH US AS BEING UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING, BUT HAS ALSO SAID HE WILL NOT AND CANNOT MOVE AGAINST ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS ALONE. WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT WE MUST ESTABLISH WITHOUT QUESTION WHO MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFICKING, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE KIND OF COMMITMENT WE SEEK.

6. WE FEEL WE HAVE IDENTIFIED ONE WAY TO GET CLOSER TO OBTAINING THE HARD FACTS WHICH SO FAR HAVE ELUDED US: BY ENSURING THAT CERTAIN TRUSTED NNA AGENTS HAVE THE REQUISITE FLEXIBILITY THEY NOW LACK, TO REACT QUICKLY ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WE PROVIDE THEM, INDEPENDENTLY OF MININT'S HIERARCHY. HENCE, OUR KEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THE FOURTH NNA VEHICLE, TO BE RETAINED UNDER ADO CONTROL FOR CONTINGENCY USE BY NNA (NEVER DEA ONLY).

7. WHAT IS AT ISSUE THEN IS WHAT WE SEE AS A NEED TO PROVIDE THE WORKING LEVEL NNA STAFF WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN THEY NOW HAVE FOR QUICK ACTION ON SENSITIVE CASES.

8. IF NO WAY EXISTS UNDER PRESENT REGULATIONS FOR  
THE ADO TO RETAIN PHYSICAL CONTROL OVER THE VEHICLE  
IN QUESTION, POST REGRETFULLY WILL DROP IDEA,  
SINCE THOSE ALREADY PROVIDED TO THE MININT UNDER THE  
PROJECT AGREEMENT SUFFICE FOR ROUTINE ENFORCEMENT.

9. PLEASE ADVISE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, PROCUREMENT, AUTOMOBILES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ASUNCI03141  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750273-0567  
**From:** ASUNCION  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750871/aaaackvv.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SNM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 179483  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROCUREMENT SOURCE WAIVER, VEHICLE FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** SNAR, ASUP, PA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006